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Safe and Inclusive Cities Exchange 2017

Community Security Governance in Urban East Africa

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Objectives of Study

- To critically study the mentalities, technologies, resources and institutional structures for security provision for men and women in low income urban neighborhoods in select countries in East Africa
- To provide a better policy and scholarly understanding on the nature, potential and limits of community-led mechanisms for security provision for men and women in low income urban neighborhoods in East Africa.

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Key Gaps Addressed by Research

- The first gap is the continued treatment of security as the preserve of the state.
- This overlooks challenges to state's monopoly over security.
- Waning dominance of state monopoly over force calls for better understanding of emerging community-led mechanisms in enhancing public security.

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- The second gap is a policy one.
- Limited understanding of the effectiveness of community-led security mechanisms has contributed to preoccupation to increase the presence and numbers of public police in low income urban neighborhoods.
- Yet, the public police are often the source of insecurity for the residents of low income urban neighborhoods.

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Sites of Study

- Mlango Kubwa Tenants and Landlords Association and Kawangware Landowners and Landlords Association- Nairobi, Kenya
- Irondo ry'Umwuga-Professional Night Patrol" - Kigali Rwanda
- Yowana Maria Muzeei in Rubaga Division and Kifumbira- Kampala, Uganda
- *Jirani Tujilinde (JITU)* (neighbourhood watch) in Changanyikeneni sub-ward, Kinondoni district and *Ulinzi Shirikishi* (participatory security) in Kigezi Chini in Ilala district

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Findings

- Existence of a community space for organizing even where security is highly bureaucratized as in Rwanda
- Community organizing comes in varying forms of formality and informality
- Community organizing does not substitute or delegitimize state security- role of state recognized in all four cases

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- The state is never absent- acts as ultimate underwriter of security (reserves power of coercion)
- Low income communities are not destitute cases- resources exist for supporting local initiatives
- Challenge of mediation of tensions and dilemmas of security and liberty; security and democracy; security and justice.
- Community-level governance as essential building blocks for theorization of governance and the state in Africa

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The End

- Thank you for your attention.

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